



Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Committee Report

Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee Meeting

October 22, 2024

Location	Date	Time
Virtual via WEBEX	October 22, 2024	5:36pm-6:20pm
Board Members		
Dawn Haynes	Josephine C. Garcia	
Allison K. James-Frison		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Carolyn Granato	Samantha Lott-Velez	
Other District Staff		
Darrell Major	Samantha Parreiral	
Giancarlo Tello	Jermain Blount	
Mary Leigh Harvey	Edwin Mendez	
Michelina Thornton		
Guests		
Meeting Summary		
<p>Comments:</p> <p>At 5:36pm Committee Chair Dawn Haynes opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. The Strategic Plan Priorities that were identified during the meeting included Priority 2: A Rigorous and Relevant Framework for Curriculum and Instruction, Priority 3: Strength-Based and Responsive Culture, and Priority 5: Integrated System of Supports.</p> <p>At 5:37pm Director Edwin Mendez shared Attendance information. Director Mendez shared absenteeism data for September across the district by grade and SLT. Chair Haynes inquired as to what are some strategies successful schools are utilizing. Director Mendez responded there were incentives provided for classrooms which improved attendance. Director Mendez also shared this was the best month for attendance for the Specialized SLT in 5 years.</p> <p>At 5:49pm Management Specialist Darrell Major presented the Truancy Task Force (TTF) data. The presentation included the Truancy pickups as of 10/11/24, Social Worker referrals, Newark Police safety escort, the Safe Passageway initiative, and the new TTF Hotline number 973-733-7070.</p>		

At 5:50pm Director Michelina Thornton presented the Parent Engagement highlights. Examples of different events hosted by schools at each School Leadership Team (SLT) were shared. One district highlight was “Dads Take Your Scholar to School Day”, which occurred on September 19 when fathers and father figures were invited to escort their children to school. Across the district over 350 men participated. Reminders were shared regarding Parent University, the 28th Annual Title 1 Parent Conference on November 13, and Parent Engagement Week from November 18-21. Chair Haynes inquired to the selection process for the keynote speaker for the Title 1 conference which Director Thornton outlined.

At 5:58pm Supervisor Samantha Parreiral presented the Office of Student Life highlights. Different events across the elementary and high schools were shared with one highlight being the September 19 annual FAFSA Night for Parents which was conducted in English, Spanish, and French Creole and included assistance for New Jersey Dreamers. Supervisor Parreiral also shared Social Worker 2 events and workshops which included a 504 question and answer session. Also shared was a McKinney Vento Act 101 Professional Development training which occurred on September 19.

At 6:07pm Director Jermaine Blount shared the Office of Mentoring Services updates. Highlights included the Next Generation Project Mentoring which is beginning October 2024 across Central, Weequahic, University, Barringer, and West Side High Schools. On October 18, McKinsey Global Consultants visited Global Studies High School and providing an episodic mentoring day, offering mentees assistance with career plans, business plans, and special interests.

At 6:14pm Director Harvey presented the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) information. Highlights included a Title IX training for all school-based anti-bullying specialists, Title IX coordinators, and designated school administrators.

At 6:17pm Assistant Superintendent Samatha Lott-Velez provided updates on students affected by a fire in Newark. She shared how the district mobilized resources and assistance at both schools where students attended.

At 6:20pm Chair Haynes thanked everyone for their work and closed the meeting.